

Message Text

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PASS AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BUTZ AND DAVID HUME

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: SECRETARY BUTZ'S VISIT, NOVEMBER 3-4

REF: EC BRUSSELS 8186 EMBASSY BRUSSELS 8237

1. LARDINOIS' CHIEF OF CABINET WIJNMAALEN SUGGESTED THAT EC COMMISSION

PRESIDENT ORTOLI AND COMMISSIONERS SOAMES (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) CHEYSSON (DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION), AND GUNDELACH (CUSTOMS UNION AND INTERNAL MARKET) MAY ALSO WISH TO HAVE A TOUR D' HORIZON WITH SECRETARY BUTZ. ORTOLI HAS ALREADY AGREED TO THE SUGGESTION. THE THREE COMMISSIONERS UNDOUBTEDLY WILL WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A MEETING IF THEY ARE FREE.. LARDINOIS WANTS THE MEETING TO TAKE PLACE AFTER THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH HIM. WE SAID THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE THUS FAR APPEARS TO BE FLEXIBLE AND THAT WE WOULD IMMEDIATELY FORWARD THE SUGGESTION TO WASHINGTON.

2. LARDINOIS ASKED IF WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO ACCOMPANY SECRETARY BUTZ ON HIS PLANE TO ROME. WE SAID THAT WE WOULD FORWARD LARDINOIS' REQUEST TO THE SECRETARY FOR REPLY.

3. WIJNMAALEN ASKED IF HE, TOO, AND HIS WIFE COULD ACCOMPANY SECRETARY BUTZ ON THE PLANE TO ROME. WE REPLIED SIMILARLY TO HIM.

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4. NOW THAT THE PRESS HAS REPORTED THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO

BRUSSELS, LARDINOIS' OFFICE IS RECEIVING NUMEROUS REQUESTS FOR TV INTERVIEWS WITH THE SECRETARY. WIJNMAALEN TOLD US THAT A ONE-HALF JOINT PRESS MEETING IS INSUFFICIENT AND THAT WE SHOULD COUNT ON IT LASTING FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 1:00P.M. AFTER INITIAL STATEMENT BY LARDINOIS AND BUTZ, THEY EXPECT QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AS WELL AS AT LEAST ONE INTERVIEW BY DUTCH TV. WE BELIEVE THE PRESS MEETING WOULD PROVIDE A USEFUL FORUM FOR THE SECRETARY TO ALLAY FEARS REGARDING ACCESS TO U.S. FOOD AND FEED GRAINS AND TO EXPLAIN PUBLICLY OUR GRAIN EXPORT POLICY. THE SECRETARY MAY ALSO EXPECT QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS REGARDING THE U.S. BEEF AND DAIRY IMPORT POLICY.

5. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY CONSIDER FAVORABLE THE SUGGESTED MEETING WITH ORTOLI AND COMMISSIONERS.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE REPLIES AND COMMENTS ON THESE ISSUES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE CAN MAKE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SCHEDULE ON NOVEMBER 4. WE ALSO NEED URGENTLY THE SECRETARY'S FIRM, DETAILED ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES. GREENWALD

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